THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Direction of CEA for universal meterisation

394. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have directed the various State Electricity Boards and Corporations to ensure universal meterisation by the year 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) have ignored the direction of CEA and have meterised the existing Irrigation Power sets by providing expensive electric meters which are not tamper-proof;

(d) whether there are several complaints from farmers all over Karnataka on procurement of electric meters instead of mechanical meters; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the CEA in this regard to minimize the sale of electric meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As a follow up of the decision taken in Chief Minister's/Power Minister's Conference held on February, 2000 and reiterated in the Conference held in March, 2001, the States have been requested to take steps for full meterisation of all consumers by December, 2001.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected from the Government of Karnataka.

Proposal to acquire stake on Enron by Government

395. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering acquiring Enron stake in the Dabhol Power Company as a last resort;

(c) whether Government intends to operate the project till a new buyer is found?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Pending proposal for setting up Hydel Power Projects in Karnataka

396. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals from Karnataka for setting up hydel power projects are pending with Government of India for approval; and

(b) the details thereof and by when approval is likely to be accorded thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No proposal of hydro-electric project of Karnataka is pending with Central Electricity Authority for clearance. However, six hydro-electric schemes have been returned to the State Government of Karnataka with a request to re-submit the schemes after the inter-State disputes and other issues have been resolved. The details of these schemes are given in the Statement.